

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
STATESVILLE DIVISION  
Civil Action No. 5:23-CV-42-SCR**

ALICIA PEARL KEFFER,  
Plaintiff,  
v.

ANDREW SAUL,  
Commissioner of Social Security  
Administration,  
  
Defendant.

ORDER RE: PLAINTIFF'S CONSENT PETITION  
FOR ATTORNEY FEES UNDER THE EQUAL  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT 28 U.S.C. § 2412

**ORDER**

**THIS MATTER** is before the Court through a Consent Motion (Doc. No. 13) by Plaintiff, Alicia Pearl Keffer, for an award of attorney's fees, expenses, and costs pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA). Defendant has consented to that motion.

**AND NOW**, it is hereby, **ORDERED** that Plaintiff, Alicia Pearl Keffer, is awarded attorney fees in the amount of Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and 00/100 Cents (\$5,800.00) and Four Hundred and Two dollars and 00/100 cents (\$402.00) in costs.<sup>1</sup> Full or partial remittance of the EAJA award will be contingent upon a determination by the Government that Plaintiff owes no qualifying, pre-existing debt(s) to the Government.

If Plaintiff has no outstanding federal debt, the Commissioner may honor any EAJA assignment that Plaintiff may provide and make the check(s) payable to Plaintiff's counsel. However, if Plaintiff has an outstanding federal debt, the Commissioner will make the check(s) payable to Plaintiff directly and deliver the check(s) to the business address of Plaintiff's counsel.

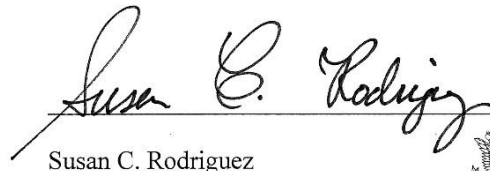
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<sup>1</sup> Costs are paid from the Judgment Fund by the Department of the Treasury, if so ordered by the Court under 31 U.S.C. § 1304. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2412(c)(1).

The amount of EAJA award payable to Plaintiff will be the balance of EAJA award remaining after subtracting the amount of Plaintiff's outstanding federal debt. This award will be paid directly to Plaintiff, Alicia Pearl Keffer, and sent to the business address of Plaintiff's counsel. If Plaintiff's outstanding federal debt exceeds the amount of the EAJA award approved pursuant to the Order, the amount of the EAJA award will be used to offset Plaintiff's federal debt and no EAJA award shall be paid.

**SO ORDERED.**

Signed: September 9, 2024

  
Susan C. Rodriguez  
United States Magistrate Judge

